

**Pastor Will Sohnchen**  
**Sermon Outline – September 13, 2009**  
**Going Deeper—Part 1**

“SPIRITUAL FORMATION IS THE PROCESS OF BECOMING THOSE PEOPLE GOD DREAMS WE CAN BE, THAT HE DESIGNED US TO BE AND HAS DESTINED US TO BE IN CHRIST. IT’S A HOLISTIC, OR WHOLE PERSON, RESPONSE TO GOD’S GRACE TO US.”

*“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

Romans 12:1-2

**Dallas Willard , who has written extensively on the subject of spiritual formation, says that for Spiritual Formation to really take place there are three elements that need to be present:**

**VISION**

**INTENTION**

**METHODS**

In clarifying your Vision for Spiritual growth beware the dangers of setting “Boundary Markers” for Spirituality. As humans we have this tendency to create these markers that say “if you do this you are in” and if you do that you are out”.

In Jesus day this Spiritual Boundary Marking had gone to the extremes... the religious leaders placed all of these heavy laws on people which said that if you keep all these rules and regulations then you will be deemed to be ‘spiritual’... unfortunately what was happening was it was producing what John Ortberg has called not a transformation but a “*Pseudo-Transformation*”.

Jesus came along and challenged was this form of Pseudo -Transformation that focuses on “life by boundaries” and leads people into spiritual bondage... and what he replaced it with is a genuine transformation that comes by living life from the Centre... “*Loving God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and loving your neighbor as yourself*”

As Christians we need to live from “the centre”... patterning our life after Jesus... entering into a relationship with him... studying his life ... seeking to pattern our life after his... a life filled with ‘loving God and loving others”.

**Questions for “Going Deeper” ... Matthew 23**

1. **Am I spiritually “inauthentic”? (vs. 25)**
2. **Am I becoming judgmental, exclusive or proud?(v.6)**
3. **Am I becoming more approachable or less? (vs.7)**
4. **Am I measuring my spiritual life in superficial ways? (vs.24)**

**What is your vision for spiritual growth?**